

NSC BRIEFING

21 November 1957

THE MIDDLE EAST

I. Tense situation on the Turkish-Syrian front has abated somewhat in last few weeks.

- A. About half of the some 50,000 Turkish troops at the front are being withdrawn and returned to their home bases.
- B. Despite periodic Syrian propaganda efforts to call attention to the "Turkish threat" Damascus appears less interested in frontier problem, which it took to UN.
- C. Syria seems increasingly preoccupied with its own internal problems and the frictions within the ruling political and military cliques.

II. The major propaganda, subversion and terrorist campaign launched by Egypt and Syria against Jordan and Lebanon and in lesser degree against Iraq and Saudi Arabia is continuing.

- A. After a short slow-down, Egyptian radio and press are returning to attack against King Hussayn. Special target now is Bedouin tribes who are core of Hussayn's support.
- B. Threat of bombing and assassination hangs heavily over friends of West in Jordan and Lebanon.
- C. Assassination of Hussayn, [REDACTED]

25X1C

25X1C [REDACTED] would probably create chaotic situation with possible break-up of Jordan.

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D. Iraqis, in semi-official move, have urged Hussayn to ask for Iraqi troops. Saud is also being consulted.

III. No indication that anti-regime elements in Syria nor Egypt presently in position to move effectively. However, still chance, if Hussayn successful in maintaining himself, that Syrian internal stresses and strains may give opportunity for relatively moderate elements to move to front.

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